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Production of High Concentration CMM: The Optimal Approach for Safety and Methane Use

The previous issue of *The Insider* highlighted the Chinese Coal Mine Safety Regulations that prohibit the use of low concentration (<30%) coal mine methane (CMM). Green Gas is committed to harnessing as much CMM as is possible for methane use: the results are clean energy production and significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We appreciate all the hard work undertaken to find ways to use CMM. But it is our view that this safety regulation is important for the protection of worker safety, and that improved gas drainage is the best answer to create a supply of CMM at concentrations safe for transportation and end use.

Green Gas believes that it is nearly always possible to produce drained gas at concentrations of over 30% methane. The good news is that this higher concentration gas is intrinsically safe: if a stray igniting source intercepts this gas, there is no explosion and a flame cannot propagate in a pipeline. The other good news is that, while secondary to safety benefits, the production of higher concentration gas has extra financial benefits. Gas pipelines can be smaller and less expensive, and cost of pumping higher concentration methane out of a mine is significantly lower. It is also possible to use higher concentration CMM in more ways and possibly at lower cost. The safety authorities in China and in Guizhou appear very committed to protecting worker safety, and we believe that Guizhou can be a leader in the production of high concentration methane that will result in a blooming CMM industry.

- Green Gas International